

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kerry White, on March 8, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)  
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. Virginia Court (D)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Mark Noland (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 24, 2/28/2017; SB 42, 2/28/2017; SB 248, 2/28/2017

**HEARING ON SB 42**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:18 Sen. Dick Barrett (D), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 42, Revise the major facility siting act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:59 Kristi Ponozzo, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

00:08:58 Darryl James, Enbridge Energy

00:11:46 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum association (MPA)

00:13:39 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:14:53 Chair White

00:15:57 Kristi Ponozzo

00:16:13 Craig Jones, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

00:17:02 Chair White

00:18:03 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:18:48 Rep. Windy Boy

00:19:41 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:20:08 Rep. B. Brown

00:21:48 Alan Olson, MPA

00:22:27 Rep. Curdy

00:22:54 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:23:28 Rep. Flynn

00:24:24 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:25:18 Rep. Fleming

00:25:51 Alan Olson, MPA

00:26:15 Rep. Gunderson

00:26:34 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:26:53 Rep. Flynn

00:27:45 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:28:08 Chair White

00:28:42 Craig Jones, DEQ

00:29:23 Rep. Flynn

00:29:50 Craig Jones, DEQ

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:30:32 Sen. Barrett

**HEARING ON SB 24**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:31:22 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 24, Modify commercial leasing rental provisions for state lands.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:33:17 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:39:34 Chair White  
00:41:53 Shawn Thomas, DNRC  
00:42:19 Rep. Flynn  
00:43:09 Shawn Thomas, DNRC  
00:43:27 Rep. Gunderson  
00:44:25 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:44:51 Sen. Welborn

**HEARING ON SB 248**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:45:23 Sen. Mark Blasdel (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on SB 248, Revise laws regarding exempt wells and family transfer parcels.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:48:00 Mark Taylor, Self

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(nah48a01\)\*\*](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:57:11 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR); Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

01:02:01 Tara DePuy, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(nah48a02\)\*\*](#)

01:08:44 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC); Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)  
01:12:16 Jeff Barber, Montana Association of Planners (MAP); Clark Fork Coalition (CFC); Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC)  
01:14:16 Ella Smith, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)  
01:14:58 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resource Association (MWRA)  
01:15:38 Chelsie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
01:16:47 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
01:17:48 Nadine Nadow, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
01:18:18 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:19:08 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:19:45 Rep. Z. Brown  
01:21:40 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:22:02 Rep. Flynn  
01:24:01 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:24:30 Rep. Galt  
01:25:00 Mark Taylor,  
01:28:48 Rep. Z. Brown  
01:29:12 Mark Taylor  
01:29:56 Rep. Fleming  
01:31:08 Jeff Barber, MAP; CFC; MSGC  
01:31:40 Rep. B. Brown  
01:32:18 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:33:23 Rep. B. Brown  
01:33:41 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:33:49 Rep. Abbott  
01:34:24 Krista Lee Evan, SWRC; AGAI  
01:35:27 Rep. Curdy  
01:36:21 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:36:27 Rep. Flynn  
01:38:17 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
01:38:38 Chair White  
01:39:27 Tara DePuy, MACo  
01:40:04 Chair White  
01:41:01 Tara DePuy, MACo  
01:41:34 Chair White  
01:42:18 Chelcie Cargill, MFBF

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:43:00 Sen. Blasdel

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:45:42

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Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nah48aad.pdf](#))